

One of the amazing things to me is that despite all the demands on her time, Shirley never let any project or any task come before her family. She was a devoted wife to Lester, a wonderful mother to Karen and Les, and a doting grandmother to Caroline and Courtney. She also carved out time each week for a Sunday night dinner with all of the family, a tradition that is becoming more and more rare in our busy society.

In an editorial praising Shirley's life, The Tampa Tribune wrote,

Shirley Ryals should be an inspiration to us all. She worked hard and effectively for the public good. She never lost sight of the importance of family and friends. And she left an enduring mark on her community, which benefited immeasurably from her wonderful way of helping people work together. It is commonplace in editorials like this to observe that the subject "will be missed." Missed? Shirley Ryals, how are we going to get along without you?

Like so many others in our community, I'm going to miss my dear friend, Shirley. May she rest in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on rolcall numbers 21 and 20, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN SUPPORT OF FREE TRADE OF SOFTWOOD LUMBER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this resolution with my colleague from Arizona, Mr. KOLBE, and a bi-partisan group of 30 other Members. This resolution supports affordable housing for all Americans and promotes free trade of softwood lumber between the United States and Canada.

This resolution expresses the Sense of the Congress that the 1996 U.S./Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA) should not be extended when it expires in 2001. The President should continue discussions with the Government of Canada to promote open and competitive trade between the United States and Canada of softwood lumber, and that all stakeholders should be included in discussions regarding trade of softwood lumber.

The Softwood Lumber Agreement of 1996 was intended to promote free trade; however, it appears to have had the opposite effect. More importantly, the expansion of this agreement is directly affecting consumers by increasing the cost of lumber used for homebuilding. For many Americans owning a home is a dream come true, but if lumber prices climb and homes are not affordable, for many Americans it will remain a dream unfulfilled.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this resolution that will help ensure affordable housing for all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO ETHNOBIOLOGICAL SCIENTISTS

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, on November 2, 1999, it was my great pleasure to participate in a reception on Capitol Hill to launch the "International Conference on Ethnomedicine and Drug Discovery," a significant scientific and cultural celebration of the role of traditional medicine in the discovery and development of new drugs and phytomedicines. I commend conference participants for their ethnomedical and ethnobotanical research efforts described during the conference, which provide solutions to problems of global public health, as well as the rapidly increasing loss of biological and cultural diversity.

The rich history of drugs from nature was delivered by Dr. Gordon Cragg of the U.S. National Cancer Institute. A presentation by Dr. Brian Schuster from the Walter Reed Army Research Institute followed, describing many lead compounds to treat malaria, leishmaniasis and trypanosomiasis from plants found in West and Central Africa. The active compounds, from plants that healers in Nigeria and Cameroon use regularly, were discovered through the U.S. International Cooperative Biodiversity Group program for the treatment of parasitic diseases. A special colloquium, organized by Dr. Maurice Iwu, Director of the Pan-African NGO Bioresources Development and Conservation Programme, was devoted to the West African medicinal plant *Garcinia kola* Heckel, also known as "bitter cola," containing antiviral, antiinflammatory, antidiabetic, bronchodilator and antihepatotoxic properties, and found recently to have potential for treatment of the Ebola fever.

The conference opening ceremony, "The Festival of Living Culture," featured West African healers and musicians conducting traditional welcoming ceremonies with plants, music and dance, followed by a Native American healer who performed a traditional Cherokee ceremony. This dramatic opening demonstrated how the core elements of traditional medicine are inherently integrated with science, spirit, art, dance and ritual.

The conference, held in Silver Spring, MD from November 3–5, 1999, included several hundred world wide participants. It was organized by national and international research, training and teaching organizations including the Bioresources Development and Conservation Programme (www.bioresources.org), the Alternative Medicine Foundation (www.amfoundation.org), American Herbal Products Association (www.AHPA.org), Axxon Biopharma, Inc. (www.axxonbiopharm.com), the Missouri Botanical Garden (www.mobot.org), the National Center for Natural Products Research at The University of Mississippi (www.olemiss.edu), Bastyr University (www.bastyr.edu) and the Healing Forest Conservancy (www.shaman.con/Healing_Forest.html).

THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CELEBRATES ITS 150TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the senior member of the Los Angeles County Congressional delegation, I am honored to pay tribute to the County of Los Angeles on its 150th anniversary.

On August 1, 1769, a Spanish expedition under the command of Gaspar de Portola came upon an Indian village called Yang-na along the banks of a river which Portola named El Rio de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula, (the River of Our Lady the Queen of the Angels of Porciuncula), which was quickly shortened to Los Angeles. This was the site of present-day Los Angeles, but the Spanish did not return to Los Angeles until 1781, when a party of 44 colonists from Mexico was settled by Don Felipe de Neve, California's provincial governor, as part of Spain's effort to strengthen its control over its territories in the north. These first Angelinos fashioned a crude settlement to produce grain, just as the friars of San Gabriel Mission had done for a decade.

Americans first arrived in Los Angeles by way of nearby San Pedro, then an unimproved roadstead port. Beginning in 1805, U.S. vessels traded intermittently with the area's farmers and, in 1818, Joseph Chapman, a crew member, stayed long enough to help with construction of the town's first church. In 1826, the fur trapper Jedidiah Smith became the first white man to reach Los Angeles by traveling overland from the Missouri frontier, but he was followed by few others. It was not until the 1830s, with the arrival of whaling and seal hunting ships, that Americans became a regular presence in the provincial community.

Los Angeles had been affected little by the revolution that replaced Spanish rule with that of an independent Mexican government in 1821. Mexico's Congress declared Los Angeles the capital of California in 1835, but the provincial governor refused to move south from San Francisco, so the city's relative isolation and the local authority of its prosperous farmers and ranchers remained unthreatened. By the 1840's, Los Angeles had become the largest settlement in Southern California, attracting its first party of American pioneers, led by William Workman and John Rowland, in 1841.

The Mexican-American War of 1846 ushered in a new era for Los Angeles. The city was occupied in August by U.S. troops under Commodore Robert Field Stockton and Captain John C. Fremont, but the 50-man garrison left to hold the farm town was driven out by local residents a few months later. Stockton returned in January 1847, supported by land troops from New Mexico under General Stephen Watts Kearny, and retook the city in a battle with Mexican forces that had retreated there. They soon were joined by Fremont's California Battalion and, on January 13, Fremont signed the Treaty of Cahuenga at Los Angeles, which ceded California to the United States.

American influence grew steadily thereafter, with the first English-language school and the